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EASTERN EUROPEAN INTELLIGENCER

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Rumors of Student Unrest Growing in Hungary

The Embassy in Budapest reports that the local rumor mills are producing a plethora of reports about confrontations between Hungarian students and the regime.

The rumors vary from reports of student arrests for unruliness, incitement, and so forth to the arrest of the son of Stalinist ex-Deputy Minister of Culture Revai for his involvement in a Maoist conspiracy. The latter rumor is tagged onto the Budapest prosecutor's announcement of indictments for anti-state conspiracy on 27 April. Another rumor asserts that students tried to arrange a demonstration in sympathy with Czechoslovak democratization on May Day. Apparently no such demonstration materialized, but in March of this year, the regime demonstrated its ability to forestall such plans discreetly.

The fact that such rumors are circulating denotes a failure of regime attempts to stifle public speculation caused by the ambivalence of its official position and its propaganda on events in Poland and Czechoslovakia. If the rumored arrests have some basis in fact, the regime's reversion to police controls would indicate that it is willing to sacrifice goodwill for tighter political control during the current unrest in Eastern Europe.

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Ceausescu to Visit Yugoslavia

Rumanian party and government chief Nicolae Ceausescu's official visit to Yugoslavia, originally scheduled for June 1967, will take place during the second half of May, according to Radio Belgrade. The call will return Tito's visit to Rumania in April 1966. Since then the two leaders have held talks in December 1966 and January 1968. The two Eastern European mavericks will discuss the situation in Czechoslovakia and Poland, the world communist meeting scheduled for next November, Tito's initiative for a new nonaligned conference, and NPT.

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New Czechoslovak Party Secretaries Not Permitted to Make Broadcast

A roundtable discussion on regional party conferences was to have been broadcast on Prague Radio on 2 May, but was

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cancelled by order of the "party executive."

New regional party secretaries or their deputies from South Moravia, North Moravia, West Bohemia, and the city of Prague were to have appeared on a popular program, which has some of the characteristics of our "Meet the Press" show.

The Prague announcer said the cancellation was made "allegedly in order not to prejudice the evaluation of the regional conferences which is to take place first of all in the party executive." He said however, that "we were unable to verify all the reasons; and because we consider this explanation insufficient, we shall attempt to ascertain additional details which we shall relate to you." No further explanations have been received.

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East German and Czechoslovak Premiers Meet

During a recent vacation in Karlovy Vary East German Premier Willi Stoph talked with Czechoslovakian Premier Oldrich Cernik and probably discussed the current slump in relations between their two countries.

According to an East German newspaper report of the meeting, the two men discussed "increasing cooperation." Western observers speculated, however, that the current rift between the two countries caused by East German Politburo Member Kurt Hager's remarks in March condemning the changes in Prague also was a topic of conversation.

Relations were strained even further by a contentious article in Prague's main party daily Rude Pravo on 3 May which denied Czechoslovak support for East German efforts to hinder access to Berlin through a series of bans against West German travelers.

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Soviet Submarines Visit Yugoslav Naval Base

The presence of two Soviet submarines and a naval support vessel at the Yugoslav base at Tivat reinforces speculation that Tito has slightly broadened his military cooperation with Moscow since the Arab-Israeli war in 1967. The only other such visit to the Kotor Bay naval complex occurred in June 1967.

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It is unlikely that Tito has granted base rights to the Soviets or gone beyond a gentleman's agreement to allow

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infrequent and minor repair work on Soviet vessels. The visit of the submarines is somewhat inconsistent with Tito's known suspicions about the USSR's increased naval presence in the Mediterranean.

However, Tito may be under pressure from conservatives in the military who desire closer relations with Moscow, perhaps to strengthen their position after Tito's death. Moreover, Moscow has been Yugoslavia's sole source of modern military equipment in recent years.

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Yugoslav Deputy Foreign Minister Visits India

Yugoslav Deputy Foreign Minister Miso Pavicevic arrived in New Delhi on 5 May, [] to exchange views with Indian officials on President Tito's proposal for an enlarged nonaligned summit conference.

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Pavicevic's sudden trip probably is related to Tito's recent Moscow visit, [] the Soviets tried to persuade the Yugoslav President to attend the 25 November International Communist Conference and call off the proposed non-aligned conference. Another issue of special importance to India, NPT, probably also was discussed in Moscow.

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Czechoslovak Journalists Draft New Press Law

The legal commission of the Union of Czechoslovak Journalists has prepared a draft of a new press law.

It will be discussed next week by the union's presidium, then debated in the union's branches. Finally, it will be put before an extraordinary congress of the union which has been called for 21-23 June. The congress will also elect a new leadership and the leaders who were elected last year under pressure from the Novotny regime will probably be replaced with liberals.

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The union's draft of the press law may come into conflict with one being prepared by the Ministry of Culture and Information. []

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